

Me. Girl's Husband Disappears On Visit

Ex-GI, Pal Vanish In Russia

By ED MARTIN

CPYRGHT

BATH, Me.—A young ex-GI and his former Air Force buddy have dropped from sight behind the Iron Curtain under mysterious circumstances.



HARVEY C. BENNETT

The distraught mother of Harvey Clint Bennett, 26, told the Traveler today her husband and his friend have been missing since Sept. 1.

NO INKLING OF THEIR FATE

Mrs. Bennett said the State Department and other agencies have run into a blank wall in their attempts to learn their whereabouts from the Russian government.

The young mother of three small children is living with her father, Forrest C. Legard, a former Maine legislator, at 15 Maple Grove Ave. here.

She said her husband and his friend, Mark Kaminsky, 27, of 1127 East Ann St., Ann Arbor,

Mich., crossed into Russia July 27th as accepted tourists.

Both had been granted scholarships from an educational fund in Philadelphia to visit Russia and several satellite nations, she said.

Her husband, a native of Tracy, Calif., was graduated from the University of California at Berkeley last January where he majored in Russian studies.

She said she received several letters from her husband as he traveled to Moscow, Kiev, Leningrad, Smolensk and other Russian cities.

"They were mostly descriptions of the places he saw," she said. "None of them indicated he was worried or disturbed."

The last letter was mailed from a small village in the Ukraine dated Aug. 19, explaining he was to leave Russia in about six days for Vienna.

"I haven't heard from him since," she told the Traveler. "And I'm worried over what could have happened to him."

Mrs. Bennett said she wired the State Department and the Amerpol Enterprises in Detroit, Mich., which arranged the tour.

NO CLUES TURNED UP

Neither has been able to come up with a single clue as to where the men are, or what has happened to them.

A spokesman at Amerpol said his agency cabled Intourist, the official Russian tourist agency in Moscow, to inquire about the two travelers.

"We have received no reply," he told the Traveler. "Both men were granted tourist visas by the Soviet Embassy in Washington for their trip."

He said he understood that Kaminsky was in the Soviet Union last year as a representative of the State Department at the U.S. Exhibition in Moscow.

The men left by Swiss Airlines from New York on July 25 and flew to Zurich, Stockholm and Helsinki. At Helsinki they rented a car and drove into Russia.

TOUR INCLUDED CZECHOSLOVAKIA

"They were expected to cross from Russia into Czechoslovakia about Aug. 27 and reach Italy about three days later. I have no idea what could have happened to the," the agency spokesman said.

When asked if the men could have been arrested by the Russians he replied "I have no idea." He added:

"I would assume if they met with an accident and were taken to a hospital, the authorities at the hospital would have notified the American Embassy."

But an official of the State Department told the Traveler that they have received no reply to their official query to the American Embassy, indicating officials there have received no word from the Russians.

Mrs. Bennett, the former Rena Legard, said she cannot understand why she hasn't heard from her husband since Aug. 19.

CONFIDENT HE'D CONTACT HER

"If anything happened to him," she said, "and he was able, he certainly would get some word to me."

She said she met her husband while he was an Airman 1c in the Air Force, stationed at the U.S. Naval Station, Brunswick, Me.

He served four years, including an overseas assignment in Korea. When he was discharged in 1956 they were married and went to California where her husband entered college.

"I don't know too much about Mark, except that he was a close friend of my husband's when they were in the Air Force," she said.

She said her husband is one of a family of five children. His father is deceased and his mother, Mrs. Frances Bennett, lives at 213 West 21st St., Tracy, Calif.

"Harvey had no definite plans for a career when he came out of the University of California. He looked forward to this Russian trip and hoped to make up his mind what career to follow when he returned," she said.

Meanwhile she waits with ever-increasing concern while the State Department and other agencies wait, too, for some message of her missing husband and his companion.

Also waiting — but not understanding — are the three Bennett children, Valerie, 2, Clint, 1, and the baby, Pamela, six months.

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